Social Networking and Cyber Bullying Policy

St. Peter's C of E Primary Academy

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Code of Practice for Employees in the use of Social Networking Sites and Electronic Media.

1.0 Protecting yourself and others in the use of Social Networking Sites and electronic media.

This code of practice provides employees with guidance to ensure they are taking necessary steps to protect themselves and others against Cyber bullying.

It also provides employees with practical guidance on how they can ensure that their conduct in relation to social networking sites and electronic media is in accordance with the code of conduct for all Local Government employees as interpreted by Staffordshire County Council in relation to social networking sites and electronic media.

2.0 Cyber Bullying

Definition: Cyber bullying is the use of Information and Communications Technology; particularly mobile phones and internet, deliberately to upset someone else.
(Cyber bullying: Guidance issued by the DCSF 2007)

Staffordshire County Council supports the view that cyber bullying represents a cruel, dangerous and inescapable form of bullying that causes humiliation, stress and trauma to its victims, and so believes that cyber bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Staffordshire County Council is committed to the view that cyber bullying is never acceptable and is not tolerated.

3.0 Legislation

Although bulling is not a specific criminal offence, criminal law exists to prevent certain behaviours. These behaviours may constitute harassment, or cause fear of violence. Sending indecent, grossly offensive or threatening letters, electronic communications or other articles to another person is illegal.

Other legislation protects against the publication of obscene articles or data (e.g. over a school intranet), hacking into someone else's computer, invading their privacy, damaging their reputation or engaging in anti-social acts.

4.0   Protecting yourself against Cyber Bullying

There are simple measures that you can take to safeguard against cyber bullying.

Being careful about personal information and images posted on the internet.

Not leaving your mobile phone or personal computer around for others to gain access to or leaving details on view when left unattended.

Choosing hard to guess passwords and not letting anyone know them

Being aware of the risks of giving your mobile number or personal email address to others

Making use of blocking facilities made available by website and service providers

Not replying or retaliating to bullying messages

Saving evidence of offending messages

Making sure you inform others of any mobile phone or online bullying or harassment in accordance with relevant policies.

5.0   What action can you take?

You can report any incidents in relation to cyber bullying in the work environment in accordance with county council's Harassment and Bullying policy. If you make a complaint you have a right to have it investigated, and to seek assistance from managers, colleagues or trade unions in doing so.

Cyber bullying complaints will be investigated to obtain any evidence available and you can support this process by:

Logging any incidents

Noting the dates, times and content of messages and, where possible, the sender's identity or web address.

Taking an accurate copy of the whole web page address, for example, helps service providers locate offending material. Such evidence may be required also to show to those who need to know, including police. Saving evidence of texts and images on the device can be useful. It is important they are not deleted.

In the non-work environment, it may be appropriate to report incidents of cyber bullying direct to an internet service provider or mobile phone company. Content may be blocked and / or removed if it is illegal or breaks providers own terms and conditions. Some providers issue conduct warnings to users and are able to delete the accounts of those who have broken the rules.

Some cases may raise allegations against staff and in such cases, immediate referral should be made via the First Response Team to one of the Local Authority Designated Officers who will provide initial advice and guidance.

6.0 Code of Conduct

As a Condition of Service, all employees are expected to maintain conduct of the highest standard such that public confidence in their integrity is maintained.

This employment obligation is also reinforced, in relation to certain posts, by a duty to comply with external standards – as applies, for example, to Social Workers under the GSCC Codes of Conduct, or the requirements of professional bodies such as the Law Society.

You are reminded that care should be taken with the use of personal social networking sites to ensure the integrity of the county council is maintained and to this end you should ensure that you take account of the expectations of all employees with regard to all aspects of the employees' code of conduct when posting information, messages, pictures or video footage these may include.

1. Bringing the County Council/Trust into disrepute
2. Confidentiality
3. Policy restrictions

Care should be taken of the legislative measures that already exist e.g. Invasion of privacy, harassment.

7.0   Safeguarding

In order to safeguard yourself and potentially vulnerable adults and young people who you may work with you should ensure that your behaviour with regard to social networking sites is consistent with the standards of behaviour expected in normal day to day interactions with vulnerable adults and young people.

Communication that is undertaken via social networking sites is comparable to 'one to one' interaction in other contexts and individuals should avoid any activity which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions.

You are reminded that it is expected that you:

a) Always act in such a way as to promote and safeguard the wellbeing and interests of service users and colleagues.

b) Take all reasonable steps to ensure the relationships with service users and colleagues are such that there can be no suggestion of impropriety whether by word or action

c) Develop a friendly relationship between employee and service users, with clear boundaries. It is deemed an abuse of that professional relationship for an employee:

> To enter into an improper relationship with a service user To show favour towards a particular service user
>
> To act in a threatening or aggressive manner or to use foul, abusive or profane language
>
> To endeavour to exert an undue influence with regard to personal attitudes, opinions or behaviour which is in no way connected to the work of the Service.

d) Take all reasonable steps to ensure no action or omission on your part or within your sphere of influence is detrimental to the condition or safety of service users

In order to preserve these standards of behaviour it is recommended that you decline any request from an existing or previous service user to be a 'friend' on your social networking site. Parents of children at school should not be 'friends' on your social networking site.

It is inappropriate to request contact with an existing or previous user of the service via this medium or any other form of electronic medium.
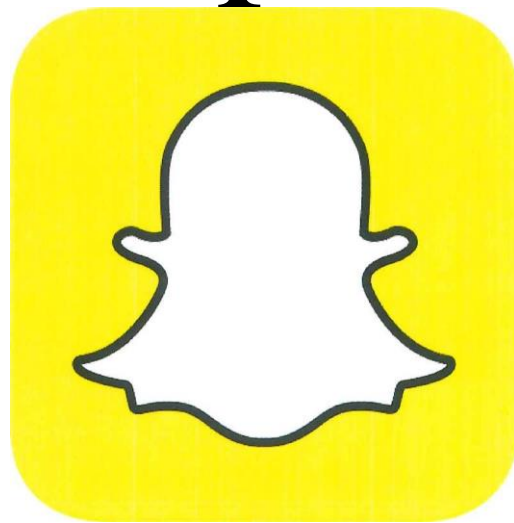
It is acknowledging that you may accept a service user as a 'friend' unintentionally and where this occurs you are advised to ensure that you remove this access as soon as you become aware of their status. You should do this in a way that does not jeopardise your professional relationship and should inform you Line Manager, is any significant conversation or activity occurs.

All employees are advised to ensure that when setting up social networking sites they should make full use of the range of tools which enable access to personal information to be restricted.

8.0   Social Media Guides for Parents/Carers

In for parents to better understand the use of social media sites, guides for Snapchat and Instagram have been attached in Appendix 1 and 2 Moreover, a guide to the age of consent for social media sites has also been attached to Appendix 3.

A Parents' Guide to

Snapchat

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Smart SocializingStarts Her&

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Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Snapchat

1. Why do kids love Snapchat?

They love the spontaneity of it. It's been (rightfully) drummed into their heads for years that photos and videos you share are on the Web forever and are really hard to take back, so Snapchat's a relief in a lot of ways. It's playful and "in the moment" — a nice change from the self-presentation and reputation issues in social media services that display photos and videos indefinitely.

2. Does Snapchat have a minimum age?

Yes, the minimum age is 13, in compliance with the U.S. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Snapchat ask for a date of birth when you download it, and if your birthday indicates you're under 13, you're not allowed to use the app.

3. What are the risks in using Snapchat?

Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Snapchat, early news coverage fairly predictably associated disappearing photos sent on phones with "sexting." Many assume

Snapchat's biggest draw is the temporary nature of its messages, which encourages people to share racy images without worrying about the repercussions. But most people — including most teens -- don't use Snapchat that way. They use it because it's fun.

4. What's the appeal of having your messages disappear in seconds?

Because photos and videos go away and aren't on display anywhere, there isn't the reputation anxiety or image-curation fatigue people feel in other services. The ephemeral aspect also adds a degree of safety, as long as people don't have a false sense of security about it. Images can be saved as screenshots or captured with another phone or a thirdparty app. So, as always with digital media, 100% safe sharing doesn't exist.

5. What's the best way to help kids stay safe on Snapchat?

As with all social media, respect toward self and others makes us safer. Whether the experience is positive or negative depends so much on how people use the app or service, whether or not they're really friends, and how they treat each other on Snapchat. Friends may kid around, but most kids treat their friends well. It just never hurts to have a conversation (never a lecture) with them about how they use Snapchat just to be sure.

Snapchat, a media-sharing and chat app, is all about spontaneity. By default, the text, photos and videos you send disappear seconds after they're viewed — you get to decide how long your friends have to view them. One thing users love about that is they can share a moment that's digital footprint-free — they don't have to think about how their photos, videos or comments make them look to some unknown audience somewhere out in the future. Also, Snapchat is "in the moment." It's not about taking pictures to look at later in life but to let people experience them right now and then move on. It's as if photos are part of a conversation rather than as fodder for memories.

However, as we'll show you below, there are ways to save what you share. So no one should develop a false sense of security.

Snapchat runs on Android phones and tablets and on the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, which are sometimes used by young children.

Snapchat's features

- Media-sharing. You can share both photos and videos on Snapchat, and both are called "Snaps." Each time you take a Snap, you choose how long the viewers you select can view it, from 1 to 10 seconds. For the most part, Snaps are about sharing a moment and aren't captured with a screenshot. When they are, Snapchat is set up to notify you, but people have found workarounds for that, including third-party apps that capture Snaps. So share with that in mind.

  "Stories," another feature that lets you string videos and photos together into, well, stories - stay available a little longer — 24 hours, in fact. Once you create a Snap, you have the option to start a Story with it. Then you can add more Snaps that help tell that Story.

- One-on-one video or text chat. Swipe Snapchat's main camera screen to the right, and you can either search your Friends list for someone to chat with or swipe a friend's name to the right to get into a chat with that friend. Like photos and videos, chats generally disappear quickly too. Once both parties have left the chat, the messages are gone.

- Filters. Swipe right on a Snap preview to customize the look of your Snaps. Use Geofilters — special design overlays that are available at specific locations or events around the world — for extra customization.

- Snapcash. Snapchat's payment feature is not for users under 18, but parents will want to know about it so nobody "borrows" their debit card to pay someone back or

receive money via Snapchat. Snapchat partnered with Square, Inc., to enable users to link their Snapchat and debit card accounts to be able to make "peer-topeer" payments.

Sharing a moment

- Be nice — it really helps. Just as in physical settings, people generally react, interact and share things in a friendly way on Snapchat too. Among friends sharing — especially with photos on mobile devices — it's usually a lighthearted thing, sometimes even goofy. It's just a shared moment like always, only now it can also be shared from the other side of the planet.

- Who to share with. Snapchat was originally designed for sharing with friends in "real life" — or at least people in your phone Contacts. You decide who's best for sharing particular Snaps and Stories. If you like to share moments that only close friends or relatives would "get," set your Privacy Settings to optimize Snapchat for that preference. The Stories feature can be used in a very different way. Some celebrities have built huge audiences for their Stories and use the feature to communicate with their fans. You could build a fan base that way too; the nice thing about Stories is that, in your Privacy Settings, you have an extra option of customizing who can see them.

- Context is key. A positive experience on Snapchat truly depends on the situation being Snapped and the relationship you have with the friends you're sharing with. So, as in all other relating in life, help your kids understand that there's safety in kindness.

Optimizing Snapchat for security and privacy

- Manage your settings. Snapchat's settings are really basic, but there are some settings that can help a lot: the "WHO CAN" ones. If you don't want just anybody sending you Snaps, make sure you're using the default setting to only accept incoming media from "My Friends." Here's how to be sure:

  Tap the ghost icon at the top of the camera screen to access your profile, then tap the gear icon in the upper-right corner to access the settings menu.

  By "Who Can Send me Snaps," be sure it says "My Friends" not "Everyone." That way, only people you've "added" (or friended) on Snapchat can send you a photo or video.

  For more help with this, visit https://support.snapchat.com/a/privacy-settings

- Screen capture is possible. Snapchat doesn't support saving the Snaps you receive, but smartphone operating systems do allow users to take screenshots — capture what's on the phone's screen and save it on your phone — and there are third-party apps that can also copy Snaps. It's also possible to take a picture of the screen with another camera. So it never hurts to remind kids never to snap photos that are illegal, could get them in trouble now or in the future, or would be embarrassing if seen by people like grandparents, future love interests or college admissions officers.

- Don't screen-capture without permission. Some people think of this as basic good manners — to record someone on the phone or capture an embarrassing moment without permission has always been considered rude, and the same is true on Snapchat. If someone shared a photo of you asleep in a car with your mouth hanging

open, you probably would not be ok with that. Most teens probably already know that's the kind of behavior people want to avoid on Snapchat, but it doesn't hurt to ask them.

- You'll be notified (most of the time). Snapchat lets you know your message has been opened and — usually — if it has been captured and saved by the recipient. We say "usually" because it doesn't work 100% of the time and there are workarounds.

- Protect passwords: Like all services, make sure you have a strong and unique password and, parents, please remind your kids not to share their passwords with anyone, even their best friends. If someone has their password, it's possible for them to impersonate and embarrass them. For more on this, visit www.passwords.connectsafely.org.

- Keeping it real: Snapchat is a service mostly designed for "real life" friends, but there are still ways to find people you don't know (such as finding their Snapchat username on other services, or using the "Add Nearby" feature, which locates Snapchatters based on your physical location).

- Sexting concerns: Of course parents worry about sexting — kids sending nude or sexually explicit pictures of themselves on social media — but it's not nearly as common as some media reports have suggested. In fact, research shows it's pretty rare among younger teens. Still, sexting certainly can happen. Teens need to know what the implications of sexting are. For more on this, see www.sexting.connectsafely.org.

What to do about harassment or unwanted Snaps

- Block the user. To block someone from sending you Snaps, go to your profile by tapping the ghost on the camera screen, then tap "My Friends," find the person's name in the list and tap it to reveal a little gear icon to the right of the person's name. Tap the gear and a screen will pop up giving you the option to block or delete that user. For more information visit https://support.snapchat.com/a/blockfriends.

- Report abuse. If a child receives inappropriate photos or someone's harassing him or her, contact Snapchat via safety@snapchat.com or by going to Snapchat.com and clicking on Support. In the unlikely event you encounter anything that appears to be illegal or dangerous, or if you have reason to believe someone is at risk of harm or self-harm, contact your local police or dial 911 (in the United States) immediately.

- Delete the account: If Snapchat isn't for you (or your kid), you can delete the account by going to https://accounts.snapchat.com/accounts/delete account as long as you have the username and password. If you wish to delete the account and your child won't give you his or her password, you can submit a deletion request at www.snapchat.com/static files/deletion request.pdf.

Some closing thoughts for parents

Snapchat is one the most popular messaging apps that kids use but new apps are popping up all the time, and parents can't possibly be on top of all of them. That's why it's important for kids to develop critical thinking skills to help them stay safe in media and all aspects of their lives.

And speaking of critical thinking, there's no need to panic every time you hear a media report about something awful happening in social media. The reason the news media cover awful situations is because they're rare. How often do you see headlines about planes landing safely? We only hear about the ones that crash. Of course kids can get into trouble using Snapchat or any other service, but the same can be said for swimming pools. That's why we teach them how to swim.

As for our job as parents, it's important to keep the lines of communication with your kids as open as possible and work together to figure out what's appropriate for them, in terms of safety, privacy, reputation and time management. It generally just works better to talk with our kids about their favorite tools — with genuine interest, not fear — because they're more likely to come to you when they need help and you're much more likely to be kept in the loop about all the cool technology that they use and you get to learn about. And just because you may have heard stories about some kids misusing Snapchat or any other app, doesn't mean that applies to your child. Kids' use of social media is very individual and largely a reflection of their values and social circles.

A Parents' Guide to

ConnectSafely
Smart SociaiimngStarts Here^w•

Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Instagram

1. Why do kids love Instagram?

Because they love media, sharing it and socializing with it on their phones, and Instagram makes all that doable in a simple, eye-catching way. Teens like taking, cropping, enhancing, sharing and commenting on photos and videos. But the commenting isn't just commenting - in effect, they're socializing in mixed-media conversations that include plenty of likes and links too.

2. Does Instagram have a minimum age?

Yes, it's 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. But Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than on the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

3. What are the risks in using Instagram?

Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Instagram, the main things parents worry about are typical of all social media: mean behavior among peers and inappropriate photos or videos that can hurt a child's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention. Parents are also concerned that people their kids don't know can reach out to them directly. Kids can learn to manage these risks, which is why we wrote this guide.

4. What's the best way to help kids stay safe on Instagram?

As with all social media, being respectful of ourselves and others makes us safer. Our posts and comments reflect on us and others in our photos and videos. Whether serious or silly, they become part of our public image. Respecting others in how media is shared, tagged and commented on reduces risk. While most kids are smart about this, it doesn't hurt for parents to be sure kids aren't posting provocative images or having inappropriate interactions with people they don't know, which leads to the next question...

5 Should my child's profile be private?
For many kids, part of the fun of Instagram is developing a big following - a good thing for parents and kids to talk about. Having a public account on Instagram means anyone can follow you. A private account means that you have to approve anyone who wants to follow you, so many parents have their kids start using Instagram with a private account. But there's no guarantee your child won't be seen on Instagram or any other photo-sharing service, because people post photos of each other. Even not having an Instagram account can't ensure a child won't appear in a photo there. How positive or negative a young person's experience is on Instagram or anywhere online depends as much on the person and his or her friends as on the app.

Instagram is a simple photo- and video-sharing app with a huge and growing following, especially among young people. Like everybody, kids use it to capture special moments, but also to carry on conversations in a fun way using photos, filters, comments, captions, emoticons, hashtags and links elsewhere to talk about things and share interests. It runs on the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch as well as Android phones.

Using Instagram is easy: You take a picture or up to 15 seconds of video and customize your media with filters and other enhancement toolsa You add a caption and, for video, choose a cover frame to represent it. Then you hit Next (Android users, tap the green arrow) and choose how you want to share - just to your Instagram followers or outside the app, via email, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media services.

Basically, there are three ways to share on Instagram: privately, publicly and directly. With Instagram Direct, you have the option to share a particular photo privately to a limited number of people (15 max), whether or not you follow them or they follow you.

Instagram lets you shoot video or still images.

If your kids are using Instagram, the best way for you to learn about how it works is to ask them how. Kids are often glad to teach their parents about their favorite tech tools, and asking them about Instagram is not only a great way to learn about the app itself but also about how your children interact with their friends in social media. That's very individual, which is why we suggest you ask them about it, but if you want a little genera/ information about using and staying safe in Instagram, here goes:

Responsible sharing

⬤ You control your privacy. By default, photos and videos you share in Instagram can be seen by anyone (unless you share them directly) but you can easily make your account private so you get to approve anyone who wants to follow you. To do that, tap Profile   on the bottom right, then Edit Your Profile next to your profile picture. Scroll down to see if "Posts Are Private" is turned on or off. If turned off, you can make your photos private by toggling the switch to on. (Android users, tap Profile   and Edit Your Profile. Be sure "Posts are Private" is checked.) [If you update or reinstall the app, make sure your settings are still the way you want them.]

⬤ Instagram Direct is automatically private. Anyone, including people you don't follow, can send you an image or video that only you and up

to 14 other people can see or comment on. If you follow that person, the image will be sent to your Direct folder. If you don't follow the person, it'll arrive in a Request folder, and that person's Instagrams will keep going to your Requests folder until you approve that person. If you choose to ignore the person, he or she won't be able to send you an Instagram unless you go back and change that setting later.

⬤ Privacy can't be perfect Even if your posts are private, your profile is public (anyone can see your profile photo, username and bio). You can add up to 10 lines of text about yourself, so parents and kids may want to talk about what's appropriate to say on their bio screens.

•Respect other people's privacy. If someone else is in a photo you post, make sure that person's OK with your sharing or tagging them in it.

•Your posts have impact Think about how media you post affects others - whether they're in there or not. Sometimes it's the friends not in the photo or video who can be hurt, because they were excluded.

⬤ Think about your location-sharing. The "Add to Photo Map" feature gives you the option of adding a location to a photo. It's turned off by default, but it's "sticky" - so, once turned on, it stays on until you turn it off. You can always turn it back on but, for each posting you share, think about whether you really want people to know where it was snapped or recorded.

⬤ Sharing beyond Instagrarn. By default, you're sharing your media only on Instagram but you have the option to share more widely by clicking on "Email," "Facebook, ‖ "Twitter," etc., then Share. If you do share elsewhere, be aware of the privacy settings on that service. For example, unless your profile's private, Twitter shares to everyone by default. Facebook, by default, will share media posted from Instagram to friends only. But after you share on Facebook, you can change that setting in Facebook by selecting it and changing the audience.

How you represent yourself

⬤ Your media represents you. That probably seems obvious, but remember it can keep on representing you well into the future, because content posted online or with phones is pretty impossible to take back. So it's a good idea to think about how what you post now

will reflect on you down the linea If you think it might hurt a job prospect, damage a relationship or upset your grandmother, consider not sharing it.

⬤ Manage your visibility. The photos you're tagged in (videos can't be tagged) appear in the "Photos of You" section of your profile (for now, Photos of You is only available for the iPhone and Android apps). They can be visible to anyone unless your account's private. Others can tag you in photos they post but, if you don't like the way you're shown, you can hide a photo from your profile or untag yourself (it'll still be visible on Instagram but not associated with your username and not in your profile). If you don't want photos to appear in Photos of You automatically, you can prevent that by turning off "Add Automatically" - just tap Profile g, then the Photos of You tab and the gear button and choose "Add Manually." (Android users, tap the Photos of You tab then the three small squares•)

⬤ Consider the whole image. What's in the background of a photo or video could indicate where it was taken or what the people in it were doing at the time. Is that information you want to convey?

⬤ Your media could show up anywhere. Instagram videos can be embedded in any website, and it's important to remember that anything digital can be copied and shared by others. So even if you limit the audience, be careful not to share anything that could be a problem if someone were to pass it around.

⬤ Use a strong password, and don't share it. This gives you some control over how you're represented in social media because other people won't be able to use your password to impersonate you. Also use different passwords for different services (for advice on passwords visit passwords.connectsafely.org).

What to do if you're being harassed

⬤ You can untag yourself. Only the person who posts can tag people in the post, but - if that person's profile is public - anyone tagged by the poster can untag themselves. You can untag yourself by tapping on your username in a post, but only if the post is public or if you follow the person who tagged you.

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⬤ Block someone if necessary. If someone's harassing you, such as repeatedly tagging you in photos you don't like or sending you a lot of direct messages or trying to engage you in a creepy conversation, you can block them so they can't tag you, contact you directly or mention you in comments, They also won't be able to see your profile or search for your account. To block a user, go to his or her profile and select the Menu button r.à on the top right side, then select Block User. (Android users, go to the profile you want to block and tap the three small squares Select Block User.)

⬤ You can delete your posts. If you ever want to delete one of your own pictures or videos, just click on the three dots in the lower right corner under it (see screenshot) and select Delete. That menu also lets you share or email your post. But if you're sharing media on Facebook, Twitter or other services, deleting from Instagram doesn't delete them elsewhere.

⬤ Be picky about who you share with. Instead of sharing a photo with all your followers, you can select who can see it. Click on the Instagram Direct icon in the top right corner and choose who to share it with (up to 15 people).

⬤ Flag problematic posts, You can report other people's inappropriate photos, videos or comments - or users who violate Instagram's community guidelines. Just click on the dots at the bottom of the screen below the post, then on Report Inappropriate. If it's urgent, email Instagram from the Help Center. You can find the Help Center by tapping Profile g, then the gear button (Android users, tap Profile g, then the three small squares a) That takes you to a screen where you can click Support.

Ignore messages in your "Request" list. When photos or videos are sent to you, only those of people you follow go to your Direct folder. Photos from anyone else go into your Requests folder. So if you don't want to receive an Instagram from anyone you don't know, ignore any images in your Request folder. If you ignore them for two weeks, the content will just go away. If you want to see images only from people you know, limit who you follow.

A few closing thoughts for parents

Young people communicate and socialize in all kinds of digital media tools and services, from apps to videogame chat to texting on phones. Instagram is one of thousands of social media apps for smartphones. But it might help

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to know that all this is just an extension of their "real world" social lives, giving them new chances to hang out with their friends during in-between moments - from waiting for a ride to catching up between classes. As socializing gets more mobile, no single service, app or tool covers all digital social activities or even a single category, but research shows that socializing face-to-face is still the main event to teens. But you could talk with your kids about the wisdom of keeping their Instagram experience anchored in their offline life and friendships.

Remember that your kids can be on Instagram even if they're not on Instagram. Sounds unlikely, but not in social media. Even if a parent bans all social media, his or her child's photo and other information can be posted by friends via their accounts. And there's a risk of social marginalization for kids who are not allowed to socialize in this way that's now so embedded in their social lives. Wise use tends to be better than no use.

There are many options for digital socializing, with new ones popping up on different platforms all the time. Some do a better job of protecting privacy and safety than others, and parents can't possibly be on top of all of them. We also can't always understand the context of photos, videos and comments our kids are part of in social media. That's why it's important to keep the lines of communication with your kids as open as possible and work together to figure out what's appropriate for them, in terms of safety, privacy, reputation and time management. It generally just works better to talk with our kids about their favorite tools - with genuine interest, not fear because they're more likely to come to you if they ever need help.

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Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

action for **children**

Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret

LinkedIn

WhatsApp

Vine
Tinder

Path

YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr

13

14

16

17

18

18
(13 with parents' permission)